

CLAIMS

1. A method for creating multimedia meeting minutes, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a notation from a notetaking user during a meeting;
 - automatically recording an index value for the notation, the index value based on the context of the notation;
 - receiving a quantity of multimedia information from at least one multimedia source;
 - automatically selecting at least one portion of the quantity of the multimedia information based on the index value of the notation;
 - automatically creating an association between the notation and the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information, where the association enables access to the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information;
 - storing the notation and the association for retrieval at a future time; and
 - wherein a single action by the notetaking user initiates the steps of receiving the notation, recording, selecting, creating, and storing.
2. The method of claim 1, where:
 - the notation is text.
3. The method of claim 1, where:
 - the index value indicates a time when the notation was received.

4. The method of claim 1, where:

the quantity of multimedia information includes information for accessing a second quantity of multimedia information.

5. The method of claim 3, where:

the step of selecting includes using the index value to select a portion of the quantity of multimedia information received at the time the notation was received.

6. The method of claim 1, where:

the future time is during the meeting.

7. The method of claim 6, where:

the association enables access to a slide.

8. The method of claim 1, where:

the steps of receiving a notation, recording, receiving a quantity of information, selecting, creating, and storing are repeated for a plurality of notations.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the step of:

transmitting the plurality of notations and their respective associations via an electronic network to at least one user for future retrieval by said user.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

the plurality of the notations and their respective associations are transmitted via an electronic mail message.

11. The method of claim 8, further including the steps of :

receiving a quantity of information from a user; and

revising at least one of the stored notations and its respective association in response to the quantity of information received from the user.

12. The method of claim 11, where:

the quantity of information received from a user includes a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, where the user has altered at least one of the plurality of notations to indicate the desired revision.

13. The method of claim 9, further including the steps of :

receiving a quantity of information from a user;

revising at least one of the stored notations and its respective association in response to the quantity of information received from the user; and wherein

in the step of transmitting, the plurality of notations and the respective notations are transmitted as an electronic mail message via an electronic mail network, the electronic mail message containing a predetermined electronic mail address; and

in the step of receiving a quantity of information from a user, the quantity of information is received via the predetermined electronic mail address.

14. The method of claim 13, where:

the quantity of information received from the user includes a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, where the user has altered at least one of the plurality of notations to indicate the desired revision.

15. An apparatus containing a set of processor readable instructions and communicating with a programmable device through at least one communication link, wherein the programmable device including at least one processor responsive to the set of processor readable instructions, wherein the set of instructions directs the programmable device to perform a method for creating multimedia meeting minutes, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of notations from a notetaking user;

recording an index value for each of the plurality of notations, the index value based on the context of each notation;

receiving a quantity of multimedia information from at least one multimedia source;

selecting at least one portion of the quantity of the multimedia information based on the index value of each notation;

creating an association between each of the plurality of notations and the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information, where the association enables access to the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information; storing the plurality of notations and the respective associations for retrieval at a future time; and

transmitting the plurality of notations and their respective associations via an electronic network to at least one user.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, where:

the apparatus communicates a first subset of instructions to a first processor within the programmable device, the first subset of instructions directing the first processor to perform a first portion of the steps of the method;

the apparatus communicates a second subset of instructions to a second processor within the programmable device, the second subset of instructions directing the second processor to perform a second portion of the steps of the method.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, where the method further includes the steps of:

receiving a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations and the respective associations from at least one user, where the copy includes an alteration to at least one of the notations;

modifying the stored plurality of notations and the respective associations in

accordance to the alteration; and

wherein, the second copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations is received via an electronic mail message.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, where

the first subset of instructions directs the first processor to perform the steps of receiving a plurality of notations and recording an index value; and

the second subset of instructions directs the second processor to perform the steps of receiving a quantity of multimedia information, selecting at least one portion of the quantity, creating an association, storing the plurality of notations, transmitting the plurality of notations, receiving a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, and modifying the stored plurality of notations.

19. The method of claim 15, where:

the future time is during the meeting.

20. The method of claim 19, where:

the association enables access to a slide.